

June 29, 2006

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Dear Friend,

Heavy rain has resulted in widespread flooding and additional problems up and down the East Coast, including here in Montgomery County.

Below are tips and information concerning flooding and rain damage that you may find helpful.

For more information on my work in Congress on your behalf please visit my [website](#).

To sign up today to keep receiving my email – even during the upcoming Congressional Blackout Period – please be sure to click yes on the sign-up question on the left side of this email.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz

### **Advice for during a flood**

#### **If a flood is likely in your area, you should:**

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for

<div data-bbox="324 195 513 231">1999979746.827</div> <div data-bbox="324 237 513 289">1</div>	<p>instructions to move.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.</li> </ul> <p>If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.</li> <li>• Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.</li> </ul> <p>If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.</li> <li>• Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.</li> </ul> <p><b>Driving Flood Facts</b></p> <p>The following are important points to remember when driving in flood conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.</li> <li>• A foot of water will float many vehicles.</li> <li>• Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups.</li> </ul> <p>(Tips courtesy of the Federal Emergency</p>
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Management Agency,  
[http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/fl\\_during.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/fl_during.shtm))

## **Information for Montgomery County Residents**

The Montgomery County Health Department is offering free water testing for residents. Contact the lab at 610-278-5117 for additional information.

### **Montgomery County Office of Communications Press Release**

**RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY 06/28/06**

#### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DECLARE DISASTER EMERGENCY DUE TO FLOODING**

NORRISTOWN — The Montgomery County Commissioners declared a disaster emergency Wednesday as a result of flooding from torrential rains in recent days.

This declaration enables the County and municipalities affected by the flooding to apply for state and federal aid to cover costs associated with responding to the emergency. It will also enable residents and businesses that experienced flooding to apply for state and federal low-interest loans and grants to help them recover.

About 45 separate water rescues had to be performed throughout the County Wednesday, mostly in the morning, as commuters set out for work while flooding conditions were worsening.

Municipalities hardest hit by the flooding include: Pottstown, Upper Dublin, Conshohocken, Norristown, West Norriton, Bridgeport, Hatfield, Whitemarsh, Upper Moreland, Lower Moreland, Upper Providence and Lower Providence.

The flooding spread to homes, businesses and other buildings throughout the day as runoff continued to build into the evening hours.

A shelter was activated at Jeffersonville Golf Club at 2400 W. Main Street, Jeffersonville, for those who had to be evacuated by the flooding.

The Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center has been active since 4 p.m. Tuesday and will likely remain operational for several days.

Commissioner Chairman Thomas Jay Ellis will tour the hardest

hit areas with Public Safety Director Thomas Sullivan Thursday while preliminary damage assessments get underway.

County facilities escaped unharmed for the most part, but there was flooding at the Central Perkiomen Valley Park offices and major portions of the County recreational trail system are closed. Residents are asked to not use the trail system for at least 24 hours to allow flood waters to recede and let County Parks personnel clear debris.

A large number of Country roadways remain closed Wednesday evening. A partial list follows:

Limerick:

1. Main Street Bridge connecting Chester County
2. Wells Road and Linfield Road

Lower Moreland Township

1. Huntingdon Pike between Lower Welsh and Philmont
2. Terwood Road between Valley and Welsh Roads

Lower Providence:

1. Port Providence between Container and Fitzwater
2. Pawlings Road @ the Schuylkill River

Marlborough:

1. Swamp Creek Road- Partially closed

Royersford:

1. First Avenue- Completely Closed

Skipack

1. Skipack Creek Road
2. Stumphall Road
3. Plank Road
4. Graterford Road to SCIG

Upper Dublin:

1. Turnpike Entrance at Route 309

Upper Merion:

1. South Gulph Road and Church Road
2. River Road at Swedeland Road

Upper Providence:

1. Route 29 Bridge at Walnut Street
2. Port Providence between Container and Fitzwatertown Road
3. Pinetown between Egypt & Pinetown

West Conshohocken:

1. River Road
2. Front St (Route 23)
3. Bar Harbor Drive

#### West Norriton

1. Riverview Landing

#### Whitemarsh:

1. Haines Drive @ Fields Drive
2. Kottler Drive @ Fields Drive
3. Thomas Road between Jackson Drive and Kottler Drive
4. River Road @ Harts Lane
5. Stenton Avenue @ Militia Hill Road
6. Stenton Avenue between Flourtown and Mill Roads
7. Mathers Road between Skippack Pike and Bethlehem Pike
8. Valley Green Road between Cricket Road and Bethlehem Pike
9. Lafayette Avenue between the connector and Skippack Pike

(Information courtesy of [Montgomery County](#))

### **Flood clean up tips**

Flood water contains mostly dirt and debris. However, it may contain a very small amount of chemicals or possibly sewage that poses a health risk. In addition, a flood may cause electrical hazards and compromise the safety of food and medicines.

### **Cleaning your home or business**

- Remove all standing water by pumping, mopping, and opening clogged drains.
- Avoid electrical shocks! Do not stand in pools of water unless you know the electricity is turned off.
- After turning off the electricity, all wet light fixtures should be cleaned and dried thoroughly before turning the electricity back on.
- Remove and dispose of all wet ceiling tiles, paper products, baseboards, and gypsum board (also known as dry wall) to a level approximately four feet above the flood water line. Remove wet insulation and materials that absorb water.
- Carpets can be saved by wet vacuuming, shampooing, and taking steps to assure that the carpet is totally dry.
- Wood and metal studs should be wiped with a bleach

solution twice and allowed to air dry.

- Cabinets and household equipment should first be cleaned with soap and water. Then make a disinfecting solution of 1/4 cup of bleach in one gallon of clean water and wipe down all areas touched by the floodwater. Disinfect all contaminated floors and other surfaces and allow to dry.
- If possible, open windows and doors during cleaning and for at least 24 hours after the cleaning to allow surfaces to thoroughly dry and prevent mold. Use fans or dehumidifiers to shorten drying times.
- Clothing and bedding exposed to flood water should be soaked in clean water to remove any mud, then wash in hot water or, if hot water is not available, add a disinfectant such as bleach to the rinse water. Mattresses or other large items soaked with floodwater will probably have to be discarded. However, if they are made of foam rubber, it may be possible to wash, disinfect and air-dry these items.

### **Protecting your health**

- Do not let children play with wet toys or other items until these have been cleaned and disinfected. Wipe these items with a diluted bleach solution or by washing the toys in a dishwasher using hot water.
- Those performing the cleanup should practice good personal hygiene by washing their hands after completing cleanup and before touching food or beverages, or smoking. Wear waterproof gloves and protective clothing. Protective gear should be discarded or washed after cleanup is completed each day.
- Keep children from playing on lawns and fields until the ground surface has dried.
- Contact your physician or health care provider if you or a family member develops any of the following symptoms within five days: fever greater than 100 degrees, vomiting, diarrhea, and/or severe stomach cramps.
- If you receive a puncture wound or other injury during the flood or while you perform

	<p>flood cleanup, talk with your health care provider about the need for treatment and/or a tetanus shot.</p> <p><b>Medicine, Food, and Kitchen Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discard all medicines and foods in contact with floodwater. Throw out all perishable foods that have been out of refrigeration for more than six hours. Do not refreeze frozen foods that have been thawed.</li> <li>• All cooking and eating utensils, food preparation surfaces, counters and work surfaces that were touched or splashed by flood water should be washed with soap and water and wiped with a diluted bleach solution.</li> </ul> <p>(Tips courtesy of the City of Philadelphia, <a href="http://www.phila.gov/floodadvice.html">http://www.phila.gov/floodadvice.html</a>)</p>		
<b>Contact Information</b>			
<p><b>Washington Office</b>  423 Cannon Office Building  Washington, DC 20515  phone: 202/225-6111  fax: 202/226-0611</p>	<table> <tr> <td data-bbox="602 863 1117 1050"> <p><b>Montgomery County Office</b>  706 West Avenue  Jenkintown, PA 19046  phone: 215/517-6572  fax: 215/517-6575</p> </td><td data-bbox="1117 863 1455 1050"> <p><b>Philadelphia Office</b>  7219 Frankford Avenue  Philadelphia, PA 19135  phone: 215/335-3355  fax: 215/333-4508</p> </td></tr> </table>	<p><b>Montgomery County Office</b>  706 West Avenue  Jenkintown, PA 19046  phone: 215/517-6572  fax: 215/517-6575</p>	<p><b>Philadelphia Office</b>  7219 Frankford Avenue  Philadelphia, PA 19135  phone: 215/335-3355  fax: 215/333-4508</p>
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